

leave events in the hands of God, and He will take care of us if we do our duty.

I pray God that He will bless these Apostles, Prophets and Patriarchs, these Seventies, High Priests and Elders of Israel, and these Latter-day Saints, who have entered into covenant with our God. You have a great future before you. You have kept the commandments of God, so far as you have had the opportunity, and by receiving the Gospel of Christ and being faithful your reward is before you. Your history is written and is before you. I will say that this nation, and all nations, together with presidents, kings, emperors, judges, and all men, righteous and wicked, have got to go into the spirit world and stand before the bar of God. They have got to give an account of the deeds done in the body. Therefore, we are safe as long as we do our duty. No matter what trials or tribulations we may be called to pass through, the hand of God will be with us and will sustain us. I ask my Heavenly Father to pour out His Spirit upon me, as His servant, that in my advanced age, and during the few days I have to spend here in the flesh, I may be led by the inspiration of the Almighty. I say to Israel, the Lord will never permit me nor any other man who stands as the President of this Church, to lead you astray. It is not in the programme. It is not in the mind of God. If I were to attempt that, the Lord would remove me out of my place, and so He will any other man who attempts to lead the children of men astray from the oracles of God and from their duty. God bless you. Amen.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

The regular semi-annual conference of the Deseret Sunday School Union was held Saturday evening, October 4th, 1890, in the Tabernacle, General Superintendent George Q. Cannon presiding.

There were present several of the general authorities of the Church, the general board of the Union, Stake Presidents, Stake Sunday School Superintendents and other leading Elders.

The meeting commenced by the choir singing:

I'll praise my Maker.

Prayer by Elder Richard Ballantyne.

Singing by the choir.

ELDER GEORGE GODDARD, assistant General Superintendent, said that a great responsibility rests upon the Elders of the Church, both at home and among the nations of the earth. Our labor is somewhat different from that of the regular missionaries sent abroad. The greatest and most important work in the Church is that of training the young and rising generation, the precious souls that God has given us. Just think of it, nearly sixty thousand children's names enrolled, and thus identified with our Sunday schools; and all susceptible of receiving the truth. The best men and women that can be found in

Israel, those best adapted for the purpose, should be selected to teach these children. Extra efforts should be made to have every child attend these schools. There is one thing that should be carefully guarded against and that is interruptions in the regular sessions of our Sunday schools. Whenever from any cause, schools are not held it has a very bad effect. It is one of the greatest drawbacks we have to contend with, for the reason that it takes considerable time, in most instances, to fully recuperate. Funerals or other gatherings of a common or local nature should not be arranged, so that they will interfere with the Sabbath schools.

In addition to the Bible Pictorial Charts and Leaflets published by the Union, it is proposed to have others shortly upon the Book of Mormon. Those of you that take the *Juvenile Instructor* (and all should do so) will see specimen lessons in the tonic sol-fa system of music, prepared by Bro. Thomas McIntyre. These will be continued in the hope that the system will be introduced in all the Sunday schools of Zion. One great deficiency connected with our Sunday schools is the lack of good and efficient teachers. This should be remedied as much as possible.

ELDER J. B. NASH,

of the superintendency of Oneida Stake Sunday schools, Idaho, reported that the Pictorial Charts and Leaflets were in use there, particularly in the Franklin Sabbath school, where the Leaflets were used exclusively. They could not dispense with them now. The teachers are supplied with copies in advance, and every Sunday morning, half an hour before school commences, they meet with the superintendency and are examined on the subject to be treated upon that day. In this way every teacher is made thoroughly acquainted with the lessons. Great interest is taken in them by the students, and the results are highly beneficial to all. The children also take the Leaflets home with them, one or more being furnished, according to the number in a family, and in this way the lessons and instructions are well grounded in the scholars. Some of their schools have not as yet got the charts or leaflets, but endeavors would be made to introduce them there immediately.

The roll was called, showing twelve Stakes represented.

ELDER DAVID JOHN,

superintendent of Utah Stake Sunday schools, reported that they had twenty-nine schools organized, with an enrollment of upwards of seven thousand scholars. The great cry with them was for room—"give us room." The children were so numerous that the superintendency were frequently obliged to organize new schools in districts which would soon develop into wards, with complete organizations therein. The Sunday School Union publications were used with good results.

ELDER JOHN C. CUTLER, superintendent of Salt Lake Stake Sunday schools reported that they had forty-four Sabbath schools with

a membership of ten thousand scholars. Had twelve efficient missionaries as aid to the Stake superintendency. The schools were in a good condition, though, according to numbers and promptness the country schools took the lead. The charts and leaflets were in use in most of the schools. We discover that when a school is interrupted, from any cause, it takes two or three Sundays to get all the children together again. Great credit is due the superintendents, officers and teachers for the able manner in which they discharge their duties.

ELDER JOHN B. MAIBEN, superintendent of the Sunday schools in Sanpete Stake, said that they had twenty-three Sunday schools well organized, and in a flourishing condition. Great interest is taken in the work. The young are increasing rapidly in numbers, and they appreciate the Sunday schools. The charts and leaflets are in use and are very entertaining and beneficial to not only the younger members, but also to the older ones.

ELDER JOHN MORGAN, of the General Superintendency, addressed the meeting upon the duties of superintendents and teachers. He urged upon these officers to exercise the greatest care in the selection of subjects for Sunday school jubilees or reviews and to see that nothing improper to such occasions was permitted. There was enough contained in the Church works and home publications without going outside of them. Anything not in keeping with the spirit of the Gospel should be rejected, otherwise there would be a tendency to injure the Sunday school cause. When it is proposed to hold Sunday school gatherings or jubilees of a general nature, in the Stakes, notice should be sent to the secretary of the Union, Elder Levi W. Richards, so that some of the General Board of the Union may be present if they can make it convenient.

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON

remarked that the subject to which Brother Morgan had alluded was a very important one. Too much care cannot be taken in the selection of subjects that are to come up in our Sabbath schools. I am very glad that Brother Morgan has touched upon this subject, for I have really been ashamed in some places where I have been present at hearing some of the recitations that were given by the children, because they were altogether unsuited to the occasion. They were not of a character that would benefit anyone. I hope, therefore, that the superintendents of Stakes and schools will bear this subject in mind, and take pains in making selections themselves or suggesting them, so that the right kind may be given to the children. Brother Goddard alluded to the number of children belonging to our Sabbath schools. If they receive no spiritual instruction except what is given them there it will not suffice. I am in hopes that we will soon have schools wherein the children of the Latter-